DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 332 989 SP 033 113

AUTHOR Davis, Kathryn L.
TITLE Volleyball Officiating: Overlapping and Ball Handling.
PUB DATE 1 Apr 91
NOTE 9p.; Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (San Francisco, CA, April 2-6, 1991).
PUB TYPE Guides - Non-Classroom Use (055) -- Speeches/Conference Papers (150)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Athletic Coaches; Athletics; *Competition; Team Sports; *Volleyball
IDENTIFIERS AAHPERD; *Referees; *Rules and Regulations; Sports Officiating

ABSTRACT

In volleyball officiating, two areas of concern are overlapping and ball-handling calls. Overlapping involves the illegal positioning of players during the contact of the serve by the server. It is imperative that officials be able to recognize overlapping violations in order also to recognize back line player violations. Consistency in ball handling is a vital concern with both officials and coaches in volleyball. Volleyball is one of the only sports to have a judgment that is so subjective. The rule is concerned with the length of contact with the ball, not the body position or the technique. In the 1990s, these two areas of officiating will impact officials the most. Helpful hints for officials calling out-of-position and back row attack/block are offered, as well as key points for use in making judgments. (Author/LL)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED332989

1991 AAHPERD NATIONAL CONVENTION
San Francisco, California

NAGWS/ABO Session
"Volleyball Officiating: Overlapping & Ball Handling"

Kathryn L. Davis
N.C. State University

ABSTRACT

In volleyball officiating, two areas of concern are overlapping and ball handling calls. Overlapping involves the illegal positioning of players during the contact of the serve by the server. It is imperative that officials be able to recognize overlapping violations in order to also recognize back line player violations. Consistency in ball handling is a vital concern with both officials and coaches in volleyball. Volleyball is one of the only sports which has a judgement which is so subjective. The rule is concerned with the length of contact with the ball, not the body position or the technique. In the 1990s, these two areas of officiating will impact officials the most.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

K. L. Davis

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

SP 033 113

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

OVERLAPPING AND OUT-OF-POSITION CALLS

1991 AAPHERD National Convention

Kathy Davis
Assistant Professor
N.C. State University

At the time the ball is contacted for the service in volleyball, the placement of players on the court must conform to the service order recorded on the scoresheet. If this rule was not a part of the game, there would be no organization to the game, and officials could not recognize illegal back row play. All players, except the server, must be fully on the court at the time the serve is contacted by the server. In the front line, the center front (3) may not be as near the right sideline as the right front (2), or as near the left sideline as the left front (4). In the back line, the center back (6) may not be as near the right sideline as the right back (1), or as near the left sideline as the left back (5). No back line player may be as near the net (or center line) as their corresponding front line player. After the serve is contacted, players may move from their respective positions.

1. The serving order must remain the same until the game is completed.

2. The position of players is judged according to the position of their feet in contact with the floor at the service contact.

3. A player who does not have one foot in contact with the floor at the service contact will be considered to retain the status of the last point of contact with the playing surface (service area is not considered part of the court).

4. A positional fault should be signaled by the official(s) as soon as the ball has been contacted by the server. The hand signal is the "out-of-position" signal (in all rule codes, a circular motion with the palm down).

5. Occasionally, there may be doubt in the official's mind as to whether a player is a front or a back line player, or if the player is in the correct serving order. In such cases, the official may hold the whistle and check the scoresheet after the rally is over. If a player was out-of-position, the call may be made, even though it is late.

Overlapping or out-of-position calls are most often made during team serve receive formations. Occasionally, the serving team members will also position themselves in the wrong order or leave too early when switching specialized positions.

Helpful hints for officials calling OUT-OF-POSITION:

1. The second referee (umpire) is allowed to ask the coaches discreetly before the match which offense (or particularly unusual serve receive formations) they are using. Usually, the coaches will be glad to tell the officials in order to avoid a mistaken call which may interrupt the momentum of the match. Know the offense and the setters for each team. If possible, ask fellow officials in advance if they are familiar with the serve receive patterns of the teams involved in the match.

2. Obtain the line-up sheet as soon as possible before the match, determine the setters during warm-ups, and memorize the players' numbers or any other distinguishing traits (e.g., hair color). For a one-setter offense, memorize the setter, the players who lead and follow the setter, and the player across from the setter.

3. In between points and before you concentrate on the receiving team, try to notice where the setter on the serving team is located, so that when a side-out occurs, the setter's position will be known.

4. When determining "corresponding players," there are no diagonal references, only straight lines between corresponding players. For example, the CB has no relation to the LF in determining illegal position.

5. Try to imagine a line between the front row players and between the back row players to determine possible overlaps. If those lines touch or cross each other, in some cases, there may be a possible overlap. If the lines cross each other, and the back row is still completely behind the front row, the alignment is legal.

6. On both the serving and receiving teams, concentrate on the serving order at all times, because players who do not know the offense will "get lost" at times and line-up in a totally illegal position.

7. When watching a setter switch positions, listen for the contact of the serve and be sure that the setter is nearer to the relevant sideline or the net (center line) than the corresponding player. Remember that it is the player's responsibility to be clearly in the proper position at the moment of service. If you have doubt as to a particular pattern, an informal warning to the players to separate more clearly may be appropriate.

8. Only the foot nearest the reference line or net (center line) is used when determining out-of-position calls.

9. When making an out-of-position call, as a courtesy, the official may discreetly tell the captain the numbers of the players involved in the overlap to clarify the call. However, this clarification should in no way delay the game by allowing the captain (or coach) to discuss the call. An official should never call out positions in front of the opposing team, so as not to reveal the offensive strategy.

10. There are two "schools of thought" between officials nationwide in calling overlaps. One philosophy is to call overlaps strictly by the rules, which indicate if players are even with each other, they are overlapping. Other officials call overlaps only if they are obvious, or when players are gaining an obvious advantage. Officials have to decide for themselves which philosophy best suits their style of officiating.

Helpful hints for officials calling BACK ROW ATTACK/BLOCK:

1. It is a fault when a back line player is in the attack area, or touching the attack line or its imaginary extension, and contacts the ball while it is completely above the height of the net, intentionally directing the ball toward the opponent's side of the net. In the same case, if the ball completely crosses the vertical plane of the net or is contacted by the opponents, it is an illegal back row attack. If the official judges that a back row player contacts the ball above the height of the net in an attempt to direct the ball to a teammate, the ball remains in play even if legally contacted by an opponent. A back row player is an illegal back row blocker if playing a ball near the net with any part of the hands/body is above the net. The back row blocker is illegal if contacted by the ball or if participating in a multiple block which contacts the ball (Exception: Federation rules). An illegal back row ATTACK is BALL-RELATED; an illegal back row BLOCK is PLAYER-RELATED.

2. As a second referee (umpire), it is easier to recognize the back row players because of a keen awareness of the serve receive patterns.

3. Since the second referee (umpire) is constantly concentrating on back row players' positioning, the idea of a second referee (umpire) making a back row call from the floor should be encouraged. If you are certain the ball is completely above the net when the back row attacker has violated the attack line, or the back row blocker is partially above the net, make the call from the floor. This matter should be discussed between officials prior to the match.

4. Informal signals may be used by the floor official to indicate to the first referee which team(s) have a back row setter. This is usually not necessary with a 6-2 offense, because there will always be a setter coming from the back row. Between points, the first referee may glance toward the floor official for these signals. The usual signals are: one finger means "front row setter" and two fingers means "back row setter." The use of these signals is the choice of both officials.

5. When a back row player is within the attack zone and contacts the ball <u>below</u> the height of the net, the official will signal "no foul" ("safe" signal performed with both palms down, one on each side of the net).

BALL HANDLING

The judgement of ball handling is probably the most crucial (and controversial) responsibility of a volleyball official. Simply stated, a ball cannot come to rest momentarily on the hands or arms, or be double-contacted, except on a team's first contact with no finger action. Since all officials are individuals, we have our own "time clocks" in our heads as to how long we will let a player hold the ball; and we have slightly different views of double contacts. To be successful, the goal of an official should be individual consistency in calling ball handling violations for each match.

There are three principles involved in interpreting ball handling violations:

1. If teams are at obviously different levels of skill, the ballhandling should be called toward the team with the higher skill level.

2. If in doubt as to whether a contact was illegal, do not call it; give the benefit of the doubt to the player. Interpretations should be made in favor of letting the players play.

3. Always "look ahead" of the ball. Look at the contact only, and do not consider the sound, the technique or the body position.

Examples of LEGAL contact:

1. Contact on or above the waist.
2. Brief and instantaneous contact, regardless of a poor body position, a different sound, or a pronounced spin on the ball.
3. One-hand set which is not lifted or pushed.
4. Dump set which has a quick speed of execution.
5. Contact which is simultaneous and rebounds quickly.
6. Simultaneous contact with two closed fists.
7. Simultaneous, brief contact which has an erratic ball flight.
8. Teammates contact the ball simultaneously (counts as two team contacts and neither may make the next play on the ball; EXCEPTION: Federation rules).
9. Successive contacts during blocking.
10. First team contact which is a double hit (successive contacts), provided there is no "finger action" and it is one attempt to play the ball.
11. Reception of the serve with a setting action on a high, floater serve.
12. Power tip which has a contact allowing control of the ball without being thrown or caught; the direction begins before contact.
13. Digging with a fist, the lower part of the palm, or the back of the hand (pancake) which is a striking or a rebounding action.

14. Spike which is a striking action.
15. Off-speed spike which has a slower arm action, but a legal contact.
16. Stuff block in which the direction begins before contact.

Examples of an ILLEGAL contact (held ball or double contact):

1. Contact below the waist.
2. Set in which the hands contact the ball unevenly, causing the ball to wobble or bounce in the hands (including a first team contact).
3. Lateral set or dump which is re-directed (ball received on one side of the body and released on the other side), double hit, or thrown.
4. Ball comes to rest for more than momentary contact (ball is held, scooped, carried, lifted, pushed, thrown, or re-directed).
5. Ball suspended (pinned) in the net or against the top of the net cord.
6. Simultaneously held ball between opponents (double foul).
7. Pass which has two distinct contacts (except on a first team contact).
8. Pass which is lifted (e.g., after a block, the ball seems to "stick" on the arms.
9. Roll up the arm or prolonged contact with the arms or chest.
10. Power tip executed with prolonged contact and/or change of direction of the hand after initial contact with the ball (if ball looks like it has been thrown, it probably has).
11. Spike which is thrown or caught.
12. Stuff block, which is pushed forward, or stopped and then directed.

Current areas of misinterpretation:

1. Serve receive or free ball passing with an overhead pass, or legal setting action. Some officials automatically call this, as if the rules state you cannot "set a serve."
2. On the first team contact, a roll along the arms is still illegal.
3. When a player contacts the ball with two fists apart, and the contact is simultaneous, it is legal.
4. If a player contacts the ball in an underhand motion, and the ball rebounds off the palm of the hand, it is legal.
5. Double contacts during the setting action are being missed often.
6. A ball held (pinned) against the net during blocking/attacking action is being missed by officials.
7. The power tip is still being abused on some levels of play. If a ball is tipped without prolonged contact in one direction, it is legal, regardless of a wrist break.

Key points to remember:

1. Learning ball handling judgements and utilizing current interpretations in the spirit of the game is what makes officiating so difficult.
2. Be alert and on top of the game at all times. An illegal hit can occur with all playing techniques. Concentrate on the player's hands or arms as the ball makes contact with the player. Give decisions quickly, accurately, positively, and consistently.
3. Make your judgement on "what you saw" and not what you "think" happened. Volleyball is less penalty-oriented than before; if in doubt, don't call it.
4. Follow your own instincts and knowledge. Do not determine that a contact is illegal just because it seems "fashionable" to make the call. Faults that are seen to occur must be penalized.
5. Consider each match to be your "work of art." Try to keep your officiating consistent throughout the match.